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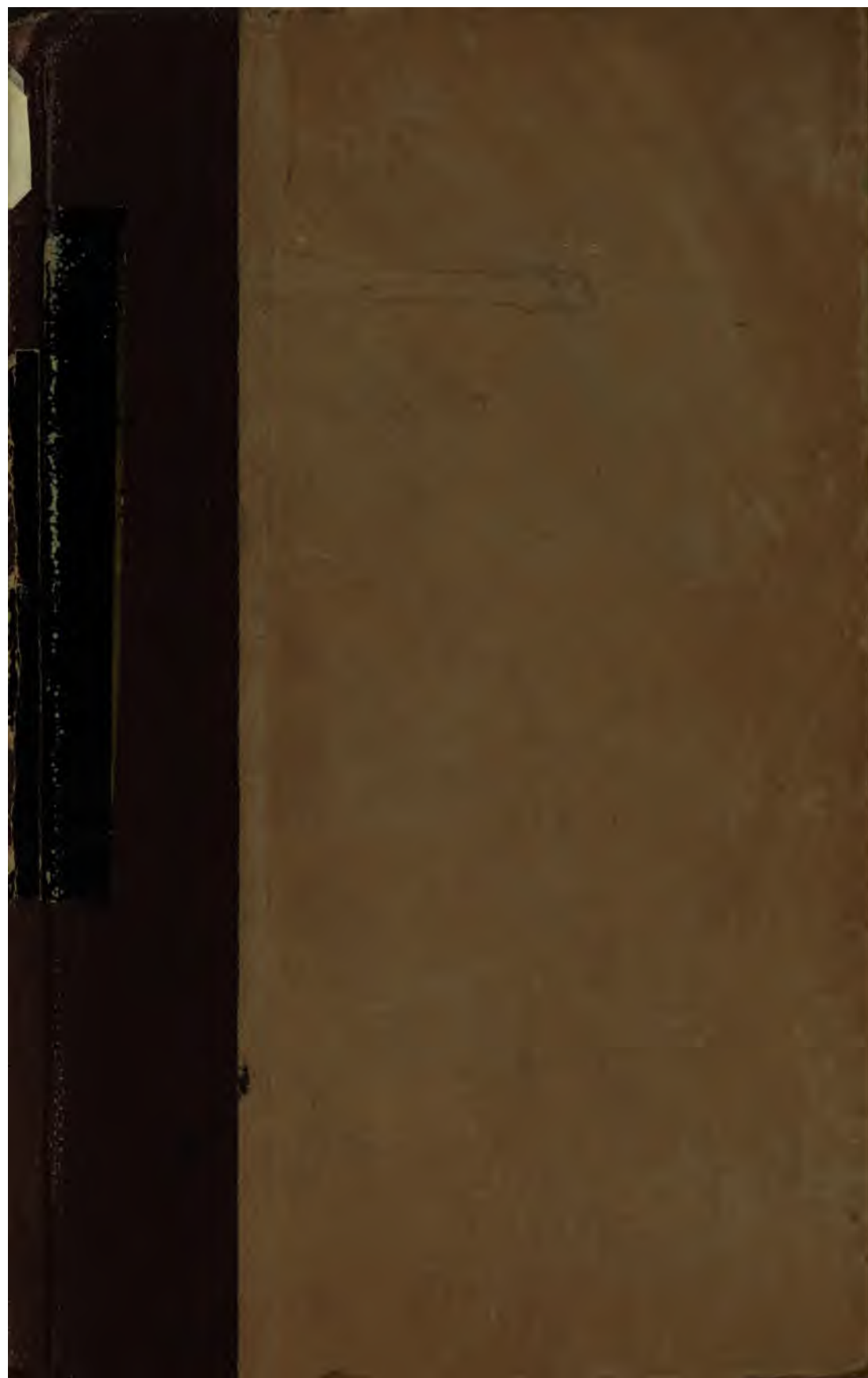
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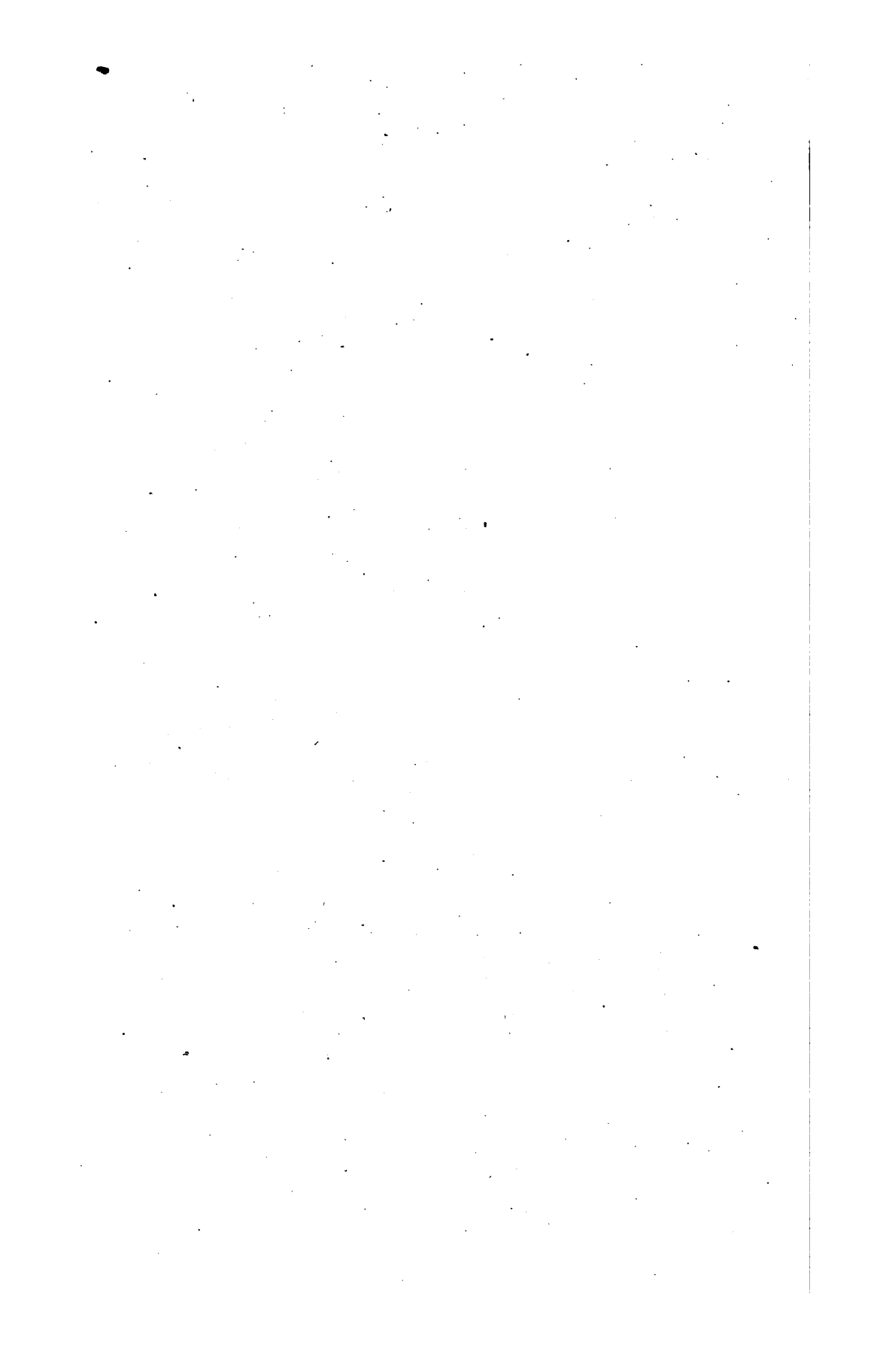
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A

COMPARATIVE VIEW

OF THE

SCHOOLS OF PHYSIC

OF

DUBLIN AND EDINBURGH.

—— nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice.

Moor of Ven. Act. v. Sc. II.

As to the erroneous or insufficient modes of teaching Medicine in Public Colleges, it may perhaps be thought by some that these should not be pointed out to young Pupils, lest respect towards Tutors should thus be diminished, and lest admiration and enthusiasm for the Art should be lowered by revealing its imperfections. But these are weak suggestions. The interests of a liberal profession, of science, and of humanity, are to be considered in preference to such narrow-minded, cowardly policy.

Edgew. on Professional Educ. p. 228.

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PREFACE.

TO draw with a faithful hand and an unprejudiced mind, a full statement of the excellencies and defects of a great national institution, in which, either from the plan of the structure itself, from public mismanagement, or from private gain, there may exist some matter for vituperation, forms a task which cannot be entirely free from odium, especially where education is the object of that institution, where men of science are at its head, and where its character is their chief support. How much more invidious it will then appear to bring under consideration such an establishment in another country, whose defects as well as celebrity, age seems to have rendered equally permanent; to compare that with one whose merits are but little known beyond the limits of our own land,

to point out their respective advantages with impartiality, to dwell equally on their defects, and finally to decide in favour of that which a strict investigation shall prove to be the superior. They on whom a decision of this nature may throw discredit, will probably feel indignant at the undertaking, though it is prompted merely by those feelings which lead us to claim for our country what we know it has a right to possess. It is not indeed probable that the following observations will come under their perusal, as they are chiefly intended to show some of the Irish Nation that there no longer exists any necessity for sending their sons to Edinburgh, in order to receive a medical education, and to point out to such of the latter as study there exclusively, the many advantages which they lose by doing so. A Physician who was educated at home was formerly thought but little of with us, and probably there was good reason for it at a time when our School of Physic possessed no proper hospital for clinical instruction; but for some years back the reputation of Edinburgh as a medical school has been losing ground in proportion as that of Dublin rose, so that at the present

day its diploma scarcely holds the same rank which a Dublin one formerly possessed. There still, however, exists amongst those who reside at a distance from the Capital, enough of the ideas transmitted to them from their fathers on this subject, to make it worth while to undeceive them. And should this comparative view of the two schools obtain no greater publicity than the writer expects, he will not consider his object unattained. The facts which are brought forward require only to be made public in order to ensure the intended effect. Those who are acquainted with the circumstances on both sides, will not find them misrepresented, neither will they have any cause to censure the omission of any thing through partiality which ought to be made known. Interested views have no share whatever in causing the comparison to be instituted. Patriotism is a term much abused, yet from it, as well as from a wish of revealing truth, does the present publication most truly originate. Whether from want of ostentation or of public spirit in its professors, the Dublin School has not yet obtained in other countries that celebrity which we shall see it entitled to receive. Yet we may reasonably con-

clude from the increasing number of its students, and the activity manifesting itself among those high in the profession, that the period cannot be far distant when its merits shall no longer lie concealed. The character of the University of Dublin is fixed and well known, but as it is the medical departments of the two Capitals which alone come under our consideration, that is noticed only as far as it relates to the subject before us. Indeed were it not for this reason, the University of Dublin could not be mentioned in a comparative view with the College of Edinburgh. We meet frequently with the words "the University of Edinburgh;" but any thing to that purport does not exist in the barbarous Latin of their charter.*

* This charter, granted by James VI. is entitled, *Charta Erectionis Academicæ Edinburgensæ*. The following extract from it contains all the privileges of the Academy or College with respect to education. The concluding lines show that any persons allowed by the Lord Provost and Town Council to teach within the city, have just as good a right to grant degrees as the *Senatus Academicus* of Edinburgh College, and consequently that any such may, with equal justice, style themselves a University.

"Ideo, nos enixe cupientes, ut in honorem Dei et commune bonum nostri regni, literatura indies augeatur; volumus et concedimus, quod licebit Præposito, consulibus et eorum successoribus, ædificare et reparare sufficientes domos et loca pro

As the following pages may fall into the hands of those intending to enter on the studies of the Medical Profession, the order which appears best for attending the different Professors, is pointed out to them. The same reason makes it likewise necessary to notice the advantages which those students who graduate in the arts, possess over the other class. The surgical hospitals in Dublin necessarily come under our consideration, it being absolutely impossible for any man to become a good Physician without attending to surgical practice. The two professions, Physic and Surgery, are so intimately connected, that

receptione, habitatione et tractatione professorum, scholarum grammaticalium, humanitatis et linguarum, philosophiæ, theologiæ, medicinæ, et jurium, aut quarumcunque aliarum scientiarum liberalium, quod declaramus nullam fore rapturam prædictæ mortificationis; ac etiam præfati Præpositus, ballivi et consules, ac eorum successores, cum avisa-mento tamen eorum ministrorum, pro perpetuo in posterum plenam habeant libertatem, personas ad dictas professiones edocendas, maxime idoneas, uti magis convenienter poterint, elegendi, cum potestate imponendi et removendi ipsos sicuti expediverit; ac inhibendo omnibus aliis, ne dictas scientias intra dicti nostri burgi libertatem profiteantur aut doceant, nisi per præfatos Præpositum, ballivos et consules, eorumque successores admissi fuerunt."

Hist. of the University (!) of Edinburgh, by Thomas Craufurd, A. M. p. 14.

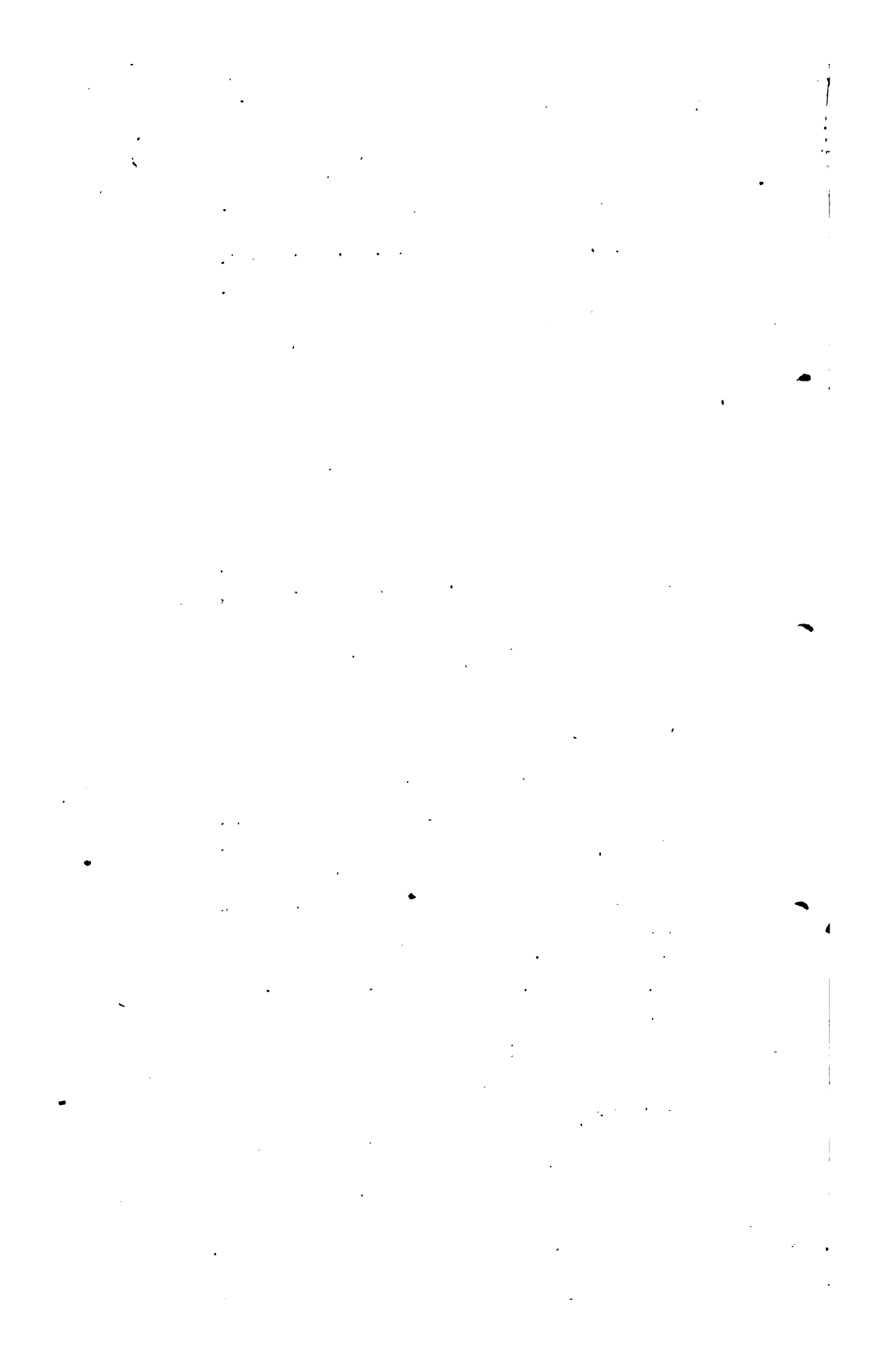
This is copied verbatim with all its imperfections on its head.

no man can draw an exact line of demarcation between both. The superiority which the Surgeon must have in his own profession over the Physician, should be merely that which manual dexterity and greater experience ought to give him. In the practice, the two professions should certainly be as distinct as the nature of each will admit; but the mere writer of a recipe is not a Physician; neither has that man a right to be called a Surgeon who is only a mechanical operator. The advantages, therefore, accruing to the School of Physic from those hospitals are great, and require to be noticed in the present view. In the course of this investigation we find some things which call for amendment. It may be worth while for those who have the power to improve such, to consider the propriety of doing so. We are not remarked in this island for viewing our own institutions through a floating mist of national prejudices; we do not therefore affirm, as our northern neighbours would, our School is perfect. The Chinese have long ago declared themselves at the acmè of perfection, and they at the present day allow any man to put away his wife if she have the itch. What would be the consequence should such excellence creep nearer to us?

If defects are acknowledged wherever they may exist, it is but fair to bestow praise where it is due; yet is it withheld much rather than lavished. A learned and a bigoted Englishman has ere now said, "The Irish are a fair people, they do not praise each other."

Some there are no doubt who having received their education at Edinburgh will always think it the best medical school in the world, and will endeavour to make others think the same, notwithstanding any proofs which may be brought forward to the contrary. To change the opinions of all those in whose minds prejudice has already stamped an estimate of the respective merits of the schools in question, is not expected. Since reason and prejudice are constantly at variance, the opinions of such must be of little consequence; but whether any thing but the firmest prejudice can oppose the conclusion which the statement of naked facts shall lead to, let reason with the reader decide.

A Prospectus of the School of Physic in Ireland, which appeared since this pamphlet was written, is subjoined to it, for the sake of a more concise view of the establishment.



A
COMPARATIVE VIEW
OF THE
SCHOOLS OF PHYSIC
OF
DUBLIN AND EDINBURGH.

IN Dublin there are two classes of Medical Students, those who go through the regular course of study in the University for the degree of Bachelor in Arts, previous to graduating in Medicine, and those who enter at once on the studies of the profession, with no other preparation than that which is afforded by the discipline of a common classical school. The former, on passing an examination before the Professors of the School of Physic on the establishment of Trinity College, are entitled to receive the degree of Bachelor in Medicine at the expiration of three years from the time of their taking the first degree in Arts; the latter on the lapse of a similiar period from

the date of their matriculation (which consists merely in registering their names as Medical Students) being examined by the six Professors and considered adequate, receive from the Board of Trinity College, a Diploma qualifying them to practise the art of Medicine. The University students can graduate in medicine a year sooner than the time above mentioned, if they enter their names as Medical Students when they enter College; but this I believe is never resorted to, as it cannot be of the least advantage to any except to those who commence their studies late in life. The statutes of the University do not point out any precise period at which the student shall commence medical studies, the determination of this depending entirely on the choice of the individual.* Some begin those studies when they are entering on the third year in College; but this is certainly too early. It would be

* It is said that the Provost disapproves of Undergraduates attending the medical classes, as those pursuits must interfere with academical duties. There certainly is room for difference of opinion on the point. If youth and money permitted, it may probably be more profitable for the Student to devote his entire attention to the Collegiate course, while an Undergraduate; but how seldom is this the case! That the head of a University should feel solicitous about every thing which concerns the mode of education adopted there, is only what we should expect, and indeed we may reasonably conclude that the report originated in his expressing disapprobation of Undergraduates becoming Medical Students while Senior Freshmen or Junior Sophisters.

more to their advantage to let another year pass, as the Junior Sophister year comprises the most useful and difficult studies in the Undergraduate course, and therefore requires the greatest attention. The greater number however of University Students date the commencement of their professional studies from their Senior Sophister year. The advantages which this class enjoys are pretty generally acknowledged, as is seen from the estimation in which a degree in the Arts from Trinity College, is held by well educated men. Yet it may seem that they are not duly appreciated even by such. In fact, to have an adequate idea of the assistance offered to the student in medicine from the system of education in that University, a knowledge not only of the Undergraduate course is necessary, but there must likewise be added some acquaintance with those studies to which a Physician must of necessity have directed his attention.

It is a common remark that Physicians possess more general information than is met in the other two learned professions, and were not this remark founded on fact, they would not be entitled to the comprehensive appellation given them. From the nature of the three professions is to be deduced the cause whence this observation has its origin. The immediate objects of Divinity and Law, are the thoughts and actions of men. The actions, not of men, but of the great and incomprehensible God

through the medium of his works, are the object of Physic. In a religious view, the Almighty has revealed as much of his actions as he thought necessary for man to know; his operations in the material world he has left to our own understandings to investigate.

The means whereby deviation from the rules laid down for the actions of men, are corrected or prevented, are obligations external and internal; to correct or prevent deviations from those actions in the human system which constitute health, we use such means as the knowledge we can obtain of the laws of that system, and of the operation of different substances on it, will put into our hands. These substances are widely scattered through the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, and an acquaintance with them, and the modes of procuring them, carrying us far beyond the substances themselves, includes a great portion of human knowledge. Numerous as they are, we know that they may still be added to, as well as that their application may be varied. The intimate nature of disease in the human frame, and the mode of action of these substances, are still so remote from sense, that the application of the latter to the former requires the greatest judgment and sagacity. From this short statement, the use, nay the necessity of a college education to the Physician, will at once appear evident. It is a preparation which lays a solid foundation for erecting a structure as exten-

sive as the abilities and wishes of the individual will lead him to attain. Besides giving the student much elementary knowledge in some of those studies which come before him, it renders his intellectual powers more acute, points out to him the best method of obtaining knowledge, and makes him superior to numbers, who without these advantages may be possessed of better natural abilities. Many men fail of success in literary pursuits, from want of a proper method in directing their attention to study. Should we then only consider that the student who passes four or five years at a University, spends that time in learning how to learn, it is manifest that much profit must accrue to him therefrom in the facility with which he is enabled to unravel the intricacies of science in whatever profession he afterwards chooses to adopt. Thus far it has appeared necessary to notice this subject, because in Edinburgh there is no such preparatory course, the few students of this class which are to be met there, having resorted thither on the credit of its former character, from Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin.

Graduates of the University are obliged, as well as the other class of students, to produce certificates of attendance on the different lectures to be hereafter enumerated, before they can be admitted to examination. If declared fit to practise medicine, by the Professors, they are then to go through the exercises

and ceremonies pointed out by the statutes of the University, for the degree of Bachelor in Medicine. Upon two years further standing, if they wish for another step, they are admitted to the degree of Doctor in Medicine, after having published a Thesis, and performed other necessary duties, which are also directed to be performed by the candidates for a Diploma.

The advantages conferred by this degree, independent of those above stated, are as follow : it qualifies the Physician to fill either of the Professorships on the establishment of the University, which are those of Anatomy, Chemistry and Botany ; with the addition of a licence from the College of Physicians it also opens to him the other chairs in the School of Physic ; it admits the Graduate to a corresponding degree in either of the English Universities, whereby he is entitled to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London, and to all other privileges which Graduates of those Universities may possess : it gives precedence over the Diplomatist, and of course over the Edinburgh Physician ; and it is an essential requisite in order to become a Fellow of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland.

The *Diploma* of Dublin ranks as to privilege with that of Edinburgh ; but it generally holds a higher place in public estimation. Neither of them, however, render the possessor eligible

to obtain any of the foregoing situations, except the Professorships of *Materia Medica*, of the Institutes of Medicine, and of the Practice of Physic ; a licence from the College of Physicians being also necessary, as in the former instance, which licence is got by passing an examination before the Fellows and Licentiates of the College. These three Professorships are on the establishment of Sir Patrick Dunn.

We may now proceed to the consideration of the different departments in each School of Medicine, put particularly of those which the student must necessarily attend. They are the same in both, namely, Anatomy, Chemistry, *Materia Medica*, Botany, Institutes of Medicine, Practice of Physic, and Clinical Medicine. Anatomy claims our attention first, being the great foundation, without which the rest must be worse than useless ; but previous to entering on it, it seems necessary to make one remark with respect to the character which Edinburgh still holds in some parts of this country. It is only in the remote parts of the island that it exists, and it may in every instance be traced to men who having studied solely at that city, are not qualified to judge of other places, about which they know nothing. In a school such as that of Edinburgh, to which great numbers annually resort, it will naturally follow, that what is good will be made appear still better, and what is bad will have a fair appearance put on it, for most medical

gentlemen are anxious to have the highest character affixed to the school where they received their education, and very few will allow it to be in any way deficient. Under such an impression the author would not have ventured on the present little sketch, but that motives of interest or prejudice cannot be imputed to him, having felt claim to all advantages of both the schools in question.

ANATOMY AND SURGERY.

Each of the University Professors in Dublin is obliged to give a course of twelve lectures, which are open to the public, previous to the general or private course. All the lectures of the Medical School, except those on Botany, commence on the first Monday in November. The public course delivered by the Professor of Anatomy, is chiefly confined to Physiology, or that part of Medical Science which has for its object the phenomena of living bodies, this being better adapted for general auditors, than mere anatomical details, which must be imperfect when delivered under such circumstances. By this arrangement the preparatory lectures are made to answer two purposes, by no means unimportant; they convey instruction and entertainment to all who hear them, and they

give the young student a relish for anatomical investigations, by bringing the most attractive side of such pursuits before him at first, and by leading gradually to what might cause disgust if too precipitately obtruded on him.

The private course is divided into lectures on Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and Surgery, the last including surgical operations as well as what has been termed, Medical Surgery. In consequence of the extent which these subjects embrace, the Professor finds it necessary to set apart an hour in the evenings of two days in the week for part of his lectures on Surgery, and to lecture twice a day at the conclusion of the course, besides lecturing daily from one to two o'clock, throughout the session. The students in practical anatomy have access to the dissecting room at all hours in the day, and are occasionally superintended by the professor's assistant, by whom demonstrations are given daily from three to four o'clock. Each student is provided with a subject for the dissection of the muscles and viscera, another for the vessels, and a third for the nerves, or as they are termed, a muscular a vascular, and a nervous subject. For the last there is not probably a subject specially provided in any other Anatomical School. Besides being superintended in his dissections, the student has it in his power to make himself master of the art of making anatomical preparations, and he can procure more subjects at

a trifling expense, should he be so industrious as to finish before the conclusion of the course, those given him by the Professor.

The Anatomical Theatre of Trinity College (where the lectures are delivered) contains preparations illustrative of the diseased appearances and of the healthy structure of the human body, which are not any where surpassed in delicacy and value. Every year brings considerable additions to these, for the indefatigable zeal of the present Professor of Anatomy suffers no opportunity to escape of obtaining any thing which promises to be of use to the school. Besides those preparations, which are his own property, he annually makes a certain number for the University. His anxious desires for the improvement of his pupils, is sufficiently evinced by the strictness with which he requires his lectures to be attended. In the annual advertisements it is stated, that no person can receive a certificate without constant attendance; and in order to ensure this, a porter is mostly stationed at the door to take down the names of the students as they enter the lecture-room. This practice is not adopted in any other school. In his surgical lectures, the Professor advises his pupils to have recourse to some of those channels of instruction in this department which are so numerous in the city, adding with a liberal spirit of improvement, that the full extent of surgical knowledge necessary for a physician, can only be acquired by such

means. Aware of the little attention generally paid to the diseases of the skin, he devotes a separate course of lectures to such subjects, commencing at the termination of the winter course, from which it is perfectly distinct. At the same period the Demonstrator of Anatomy gives also a separate course of lectures on the diseases of the eye. By this gentleman a subtile membrane, not hitherto known, was announced last spring, as being discovered by him in his investigations of this delicate organ and of its diseases.

This general outline of the Anatomical department in the University of Dublin would be quite sufficient to answer all the purposes of contrast, as well as to give a brief view of its absolute merits ; but it cannot be entirely superfluous to add the testimony which an Edinburgh teacher bore to its excellence, honourable to his heart as it opposed his pecuniary interest, and creditable to his head as it was dictated by reason. The late Dr. Gordon of Edinburgh, who probably did as much as could be done to remedy the difficulties under which anatomical studies labour in that city, though he was not attached to the School of Physic, in the last lecture which he delivered to his anatomical class, enforcing on them the necessity of attending to such investigations, and lamenting the deficiency of Edinburgh, strongly recommended them to follow up those pursuits in other schools. He mentioned London,

Dublin and Paris. To the first he stated some objections; but Dublin, he said, was one of the first if not the first School of Anatomy in the world. The talents of this gentleman were probably rated a little too high by some of his pupils, but it is certain that the School of Physic in Edinburgh has experienced a greater loss by his death, than it would in being deprived of more than one of its present Professors. The hiatus which he endeavoured to fill remains open, for there is no one to take his place. His tribute to the merits of the Dublin school, in addition to the brief sketch just given, leaves nothing more necessary to be said on the subject. We may therefore now take a short view of the manner in which Anatomy is taught in the school of Edinburgh. The first defect which strikes us here is the want of subjects. This is the greatest possible objection to any medical school, and one from which many others originate. If the lectures and demonstrations were conducted in the most judicious manner (which we shall see is not the case) the spectator in a class-room could never become a good anatomist without frequent opportunities of investigating on the the human body, whatever had been there pointed out to him. The supply of subjects in Edinburgh is very scanty; and these few which they do get, being brought from a great distance, are in a bad state for teaching what the practical student must learn slowly: they cost

much money and afford but little information. The price of one subject in Edinburgh will provide at least six or seven in Dublin. Application to practical anatomy is a *sine quâ non* in the latter place; in the former, numbers pass examination without ever handling a scalpel. The manner in which the anatomical course is conducted, independent of the disadvantages arising from the above mentioned cause, is highly objectionable. In all other anatomical schools the course is completed in the space of six months; here it is not finished till a year and a half from its commencement; that is, half of the course is given one winter, and half the next. The evil consequences of this must be obvious to every one. A tiro joins the class at the latter part of the lectures, and he gives at first all possible attention to what is going on, but the study soon appears so difficult to him, that he despairs of ever becoming master of it, and he places his chief reliance on that pernicious system of grinding, which flourishes here in all its glory, for being enabled to pass examination. Indeed he flatters himself (we should hope without sufficient reason) that he can make the examiner friendly to him on the day of trial, by taking two or three tickets for his lectures. It is natural enough that the student should be thus affected, that he should be tempted to retire in despair from a study which appears to him so difficult; for it is surely the most exquisite folly to attempt to

demonstrate the nerves or arteries to him without having first made him acquainted with the bones and muscles : yet absurdities of this kind take place every year in consequence of this division of the course. It is vain to plead the plausible excuse, that the weight of matter is such as cannot be done justice to in the space of one winter, for better anatomists and better lecturers on Anatomy than any in Edinburgh, give full courses in six months, far more replete with information and more comprehensive, than those which require a year and a half to be completed, even with the aid of a paternal manuscript.

The plain truth to be deduced from these facts is, that Edinburgh does not deserve the name of a school for anatomy ; and though it may improve, though their Professors may be good lecturers and good anatomists, it never can deserve the name as long as the great means of acquiring knowledge in this department, are deficient.

CHEMISTRY.

Were we to direct our attention under this head merely to lectures on chemistry, there would not be room for any remarks on the sub-

ject, as we do not find any thing deficient in either school, and we might therefore say that they are both on an equality with respect to instruction ; but we should treat Dublin with injustice in taking such a limited view of the matter. Without reference to any public lecture, of which there are none in Edinburgh, we find one decided advantage which the Irish school possess over the other. The Dublin Professor allows gentlemen to have access to his laboratory as private pupils, and to learn chemistry by the surest mode, by making experiments themselves. This privilege is obtained at a very small additional expence in Dublin, and is not to be got at Edinburgh. Besides this there are other advantages which the former city possess over the latter in this department of medical instruction, in common with the rest. The classes of Edinburgh are so full that it is not in the Professor's power to determine what degree of attention has been paid to his lectures by any individual, without recourse to measures which are not adopted ; he may therefore give a certificate of attendance to a man who did not go once to his class-room. Indeed in Edinburgh the professors know nothing about the distribution of the certificates, as they are given by the librarian on his receiving the tickets of admission, without any further inquiry. The number of those who attend the Professor in Dublin, is from sixty to eighty ; he will then be able to estimate the

attention of each tolerably well, and a conscientious discharge of public trust has proved this to be the case before now. All the certificates granted in the Dublin school come directly from the hand of the Professor, in order to guard against inattention as much as possible.

The observations which have been made under this article, apply entirely to the school; but before we pass to another subject, it may be right to remark, with respect to the student, that those who receive a University education, feel themselves quite at home in learning chemistry, from their acquaintance with natural philosophy.

BOTANY.

The botanical course commences about the first of May, and ends with July. In Dublin the lectures are delivered five days in the week at Trinity College, the sixth day being set apart for excursions to the gardens, or into the country. The means of acquiring botanical knowledge are no where more abundant than in Dublin. The extensive and well furnished gardens of the Dublin Society, and of Trinity College, both of which are kept in the best order, offer an ample field to the student. The former are really magnificent, their extent is

thirty acres, and they are said by some who have seen the gardens of Paris and Leyden, to be superior to them. The College gardens are inferior in extent to those of the Society, but they are well stored with objects of investigation to the botanist. In these the medical plants are arranged according to the method to which the professor has adapted his lectures. In the first twelve, or introductory lectures, which are open to the public, and which of course are quite elementary, the Linnean system is adopted. In the ensuing course this is given up, after sufficient information relative to the application of it is given to the student, and the Professor of Botany of Trinity College Dublin, has the merit of being the only one in these countries who lectures according to the method of the natural Jussieu. An inferior situation in this department is also equally well filled. The College gardener, who is the Professor's assistant, is an excellent botanist, and his demonstrations, to which access is obtained on reasonable terms, are of the most decided use to the young student: they save him a great deal of time and trouble.

Turning to the botanical department in Edinburgh, we really find every thing to censure, and nothing to praise. It is a prevailing notion amongst the students of Edinburgh, that botany is quite useless to the physician, and from this circumstance alone we might estimate both the attention which this study

receives there, and the merits of their lecturer. The number of students who attend those lectures in that city, bears no proportion to the number of tickets issued, or (to use a scientific phrase) if any, it is an inverse proportion.*

It is indeed a very common occurrence to hear a candidate for a diploma acknowledge complete ignorance of this branch within a few days of his examination; and it is just as common to hear them lament the being obliged to pay for a course of lectures, from which they should receive no benefit, even though they should attend them. The Botanic garden of Edinburgh is a mean one, and the entire department not what it ought to be.

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

The lectures on Materia Medica, &c. are delivered in Dublin at Sir Patrick Dunn's hospital, between twelve and one o'clock. The observations which are made on the nature and

* Notwithstanding the number of students who resort to Edinburgh, it is extremely probable, if not certain, that those who really attended lectures on botany, delivered by the Professor in that city during last summer, were not equal to more than a fourth of the Professor's class in Dublin, which consisted of sixty students, all of whom must have attended.

qualities of each article, and the precepts which are given with respect to their use, being the result of great experience and of the most judicious practice, cannot be too highly appreciated by the student. The value of the present Professor of Materia Medica to the Medical School of Dublin, is fully proved to those who see his lectures illustrated by his practice when Professor of clinical medicine. The intimate connexion which exists between the different departments of medical studies, and the treatment of disease, is by him put in the clearest view, and in such a manner as cannot fail to make a proper impression on the minds of his pupils. This gentleman is well known in Dublin; he is at the head of his profession in a city far more populous than Edinburgh, and one in which the opportunities of investigating pathology from numerous cases of disease and morbid examinations, are proved to be incomparably superior, as well in private as in public practice, both of which the Professor enjoys to a very considerable extent. In his lectures he sends round amongst his class, specimens of each medicinal substance, and exhibits plates of the botanical articles, a plan which is not followed in Edinburgh. The Professor of Materia Medica in the latter place is one of those who divide their course, and he thus materially injures his lectures by bringing in much unnecessary matter. As a teacher in the school, he is much superior to some of his brother Profes-

sors, and he is certainly a good practical physician, fully deserving of the respect with which he is treated by his pupils; but such of these as apply the term *scientific* to the lectures on Materia Medica, which are given at the College of Edinburgh, must be considered as using, in the warmth of juvenile feeling, a word of which they have not yet learned the true import.

INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE.

In this department, that just now treated of, and that which will next come to be considered, individual merit must generally be the test of superiority. To compare the merits of individuals, though exercising public functions, and to expose the result of such a comparison to the eye of many, must, to a mind possessing any feeling of delicacy, be extremely unpleasant; yet, however disagreeable such an action may be, the object for which this statement is drawn up renders it imperative, and respect for individuals at the other side of the channel must yield to truth and patriotic feeling. The superiority of the Dublin school in this branch is too evident to allow of contradiction; and this almost necessarily follows from its known excellence in the first department, which has

been submitted to consideration. The anatomist and the physiologist must always go hand in hand; and wherever the investigations of the former are deficient, the reasonings of the latter must be imperfect. The Dublin school is not chargeable with either of these defects, while that of Edinburgh labours heavily under both. The state of these physiological doctrines, which are annually delivered in the school of Edinburgh by the professor, and of those which were delivered by a late popular teacher in the city, is well represented by the extremes which Locke cautions us to guard against, in the two following sentences, applying each in the order of their occurrence:—"We shall then (says he) use our understandings right, when we entertain all objects in that way and proportion that they are suited to our faculties, and upon those grounds they are capable of being proposed to us; and not peremptorily, or intemperately require demonstration, and demand certainty, where probability only is to be had, and which is sufficient to govern all our concerns. If we will disbelieve every thing, because we cannot certainly know all things; we shall do much what as wisely as he who would not use his legs, but sit still and perish, because he had no wings to fly." Those who censured the aged Professor because he *knew every thing*, fell into the opposite extreme, and praised the young lecturer because

he *knew nothing*, not considering, that to doubt is an easy matter, it being a thing which any fool can do; but the thing to be desired, and the difficult thing, is to doubt wisely. Physiology has of late years received much improvement, but antiquated notions have not been entirely banished from the minds of those who are wedded to the opinions and prejudices of time long gone by. If there be any man here who regards the rust and cobwebs of antiquity, as things too sacred to admit of investigation into the arcana of nature, at the expense of their removal, let *him* pass over to Edinburgh. He will meet there with one Professor who will tell him what articles of the *Materia Medica* are best to correct *putrescency* of the fluids, and who will inform him that mucous membranes do not undergo the suppurative inflammation; another more celebrated, whose province has not yet come before us, will teach him how to make Pus out of Serum; and a third will tell him any thing he wants to know. Should he frequent a certain labyrinthine building there, from which the only clew necessary to bring him out safe is a little common sense, he will see something of a curious monster produced by a mixture of the *Stahlian ratio medendi*, with that of the Empirics; but all these are foreign to the subject immediately under consideration, and therefore we must quit them. The Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in Dublin, besides being a much

better lecturer than his northern parallel, is also much esteemed for his clinical practice at Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital; being thus a valuable teacher in two branches of the profession, even more so in the latter than the former, because knowledge in the one may be acquired from books by a tolerable anatomist, whereas skill in the other can only be got by personal attention to the treatment of disease by a judicious practitioner.

PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

The object of this department is linked so closely with Clinical Lectures and Hospital attendance, that they might be considered under the same head, though they are divided here in order to investigate the merits of each with greater conciseness. Wherever the Clinical department is bad, the end of the other is not attained; but the excellence of the former can counterbalance and outweigh any loss where the latter is defective. It follows, therefore, that we cannot form a correct opinion of either school on this subject, until we shall have examined the state of Clinical medicine in both, the merits of which shall presently be discussed

in a separate article. Were we to confine ourselves merely to the lectures on the practice of physic, we should at once give the palm to the Professor at Edinburgh, for he has deservedly acquired a character which very few have or can attain; and in this respect the superiority is most readily conceded to a man whose fame is the offspring of his own talents, and not an *heirloom*, like that of some other professors in the Scotch School. After paying this just tribute to merit, it is with less readiness that a few defects are pointed out in the lectures on the practice of physic in Edinburgh, chiefly relative, however, to the plan of lecturing which is so prevalent in that school. A student may attend those lectures for one entire season without hearing a word said of the four last orders of disease in the class *Pyrexia*. To this evil, as well as to *senectus naturâ loquacior*, we trace that wearisome prolixity which is indeed also an evil, though not altogether so injurious a one as the foregoing. It is a great loss to the school that this gentleman's talents are not employed in Clinical instruction, a branch which stands very much in need of them. The cause, which is probably to be referred to his own wishes, it is not for us to inquire into, the mere statement of the fact is quite sufficient. Turning to Dublin, we should be cautious not to let the high character of one professor tend to depreciate the merits of the other. The lectures at Sir Patrick Dunn's hospital, which

come under this head, inculcate sound principles of practice, and teach the student to treat disease on the sure grounds of practical truth.

CLINICAL MEDICINE.

We have now taken a short view of the comparative merits of six departments in each school, the result of which being sufficiently obvious, requires not to be again pointed out. The merits and defects which belong separately to the school or to the Professor, have been briefly stated as we advanced to the present subject. Such of these as entirely depend on individual talent, must in the course of time be subject to variation; but superior local advantages will render the character of the others fixed. Besides, should it happen that a man unfit to discharge the duty of Professor, by any chance had been elected to that situation, or that he became unequal to the task, from age or any other circumstances, in Dublin, he would be speedily removed, the election of all the Professors there being septennial. In Edinburgh, the Professorships are held for life, nay they are sometimes hereditary; the talents and manœuvres of a father having not very long ago succeeded in settling the son in his chair.

The charter of King James the Sixth of Scotland, gives the Lord Provost and the Town-Council a power of removing persons inadequate to perform the duties of the situation ; but we have a living instance of this power not being exerted. Indeed the clause is almost nugatory, for surely those men cannot be sufficient judges of the merits of a Professor in a Medical School. Again, the election of the six Professors in Edinburgh, is by charter given to the Lord Provost and Town-Council ; but in Dublin it rests with men of the first rank in science, with the Board of Trinity College and the College of Physicians. Enough however of general remarks for the present.—We now proceed to another subject.

Clinical medicine comprehends not only lectures on the sick, but likewise daily attendance on them at an hospital. In Dublin the six Professors of the School of Physic fill this office in rotation, holding it each for three months. In Edinburgh it is exclusively confined to two of them. The hospital set apart for Medical instruction in the former city, is Sir Patrick Dunn's ; in the latter, the Royal Infirmary, which is the only one Surgical or Medical in the capital of Scotland. In both, the Physician visits his patients every day, (about thirty cases being always selected by the Clinical Professor,) his pupils at the same time attending him, one of whom, as clerk of the hospital, takes down the reports and prescrip-

tions for each patient in a book kept for the purpose. On these cases lectures are delivered twice in the week. The reports at Sir Patrick Dunn's hospital are given out in the Latin language; and this custom is certainly of great use to some of the students; whether it would answer for the Royal Infirmary is another question. The above mentioned hospital is an airy and handsome building, extremely well adapted for the safety of the attendants and the comfort of the sick. It was completely filled last winter, containing one hundred and thirty patients together. The wards are spacious and always well supplied with fresh air; the whole of the establishment indeed is on the very best plan, both with respect to patients and students. Every accommodation which should exist in a large hospital of the kind, is met there. It possesses a good library of old works, from which books can be got by depositing the value. The case-books lie in the pupils' room, where they can copy the cases without interruption. The number of students who annually attend this hospital, is not so great as to be productive of inconvenience in any way. They interfere very little with each other at any time, a circumstance of the greatest importance. Few, if any of them, take down the Physician's report at the bed side. They employ the time more advantageously in attending to the examination of the patients, as they can refer to the case-books at any other time. The students

here have likewise great advantage in their number not being too extensive, whenever a patient is submitted to examination after death. This duty is performed either by the Professor of Anatomy, or by the clinical Physician, some of the students generally assisting; and they can all draw as close to the body as they may wish, so as to become perfectly acquainted with the morbid changes that may have taken place, which are always minutely pointed out to them, any thing worth preserving being put up for the use of the school.

The gentleman who fills the situation of apothecary to the hospital at present is a physician, and the student cannot too highly appreciate the benefit he will receive from obtaining access to the shop which is under his superintendency. To become familiar with the appearance of different drugs, and to acquire a little manual dexterity in the composition of medicine, is very necessary to the physician; and there can be no place more convenient for that purpose than the clinical hospital, where information is readily imparted to him, which it would cost some very disagreeable labor to supply elsewhere. This kind of demonstrative pharmacy is not to be got in Edinburgh; and though a young man should attend an apothecary's shop there, he might stand behind the counter for half a day without doing any thing more than weighing out a dose of salts, or making up a couple of pills; for most of

the inferior prescribers in that city dispense their own medicines,* and as to the rest, there is not very much to be done.

Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital also contains a handsome lecture-room, which is sufficiently capacious for a very large class. With respect to the general practice of this hospital, a reference to some of the foregoing articles will give any information that may be requisite; with respect to that of the other, the same channel will furnish as much as can be said or hinted on so delicate a subject.

We now turn to the Royal Infirmary, and in no case do we find the misrepresentations which have come from that quarter, greater than in this. The number of patients which it contains has been brought forward as a proof of the excellence of the clinical department, just as if the utility of an hospital for medical education was in direct proportion to its capacity. The very fact of selecting a certain portion for the clinical wards, proves that it is not. Five cases properly treated by the physician, and closely attended to by the student, are worth five hundred such as we meet * * * *

This Infirmary is an old building, the window frames are heavy, the wards close, encum-

* It was actually once made a subject of debate in the College of Physicians of Edinburgh, whether the Physicians should keep and dispense their own medicines, like their Surgeons. This would be a certain security against the detection of bad prescriptions, or bad Latin.

bered with much timber work, presses, partitions, &c., so that it always looks and always is, *very dirty*. As there is no regular surgical hospital in the town, this is made to answer for many purposes; it is a confused mixture of things, which are better conducted and more instructive in other places, where they are more distinct. The Physicians and Surgeons go their rounds at the same time, thereby depriving the students of any little advantage which they might have from attending to each. The celebrity which the School of Edinburgh has obtained, is in many respects a source of injury; but in no instance is this effect so evidently produced as in the Clinical department. The number of students who attend the infirmary is so great, that they interfere materially with each other. It is really the most mechanical, and at the same time the most ludicrous piece of business that can be, to see the crowd of raw students surrounding the Physician, each of them with his ink-bottle dangling from his button, writing away, some of them most furiously, attending more to what they shall write than to the state of the patient. Indeed it would be quite impossible for at least one half of them to obtain sufficient information on the subject. All this, however, might be well enough if they afterwards examined the patients themselves; but the tenth part of them do not take this trouble. If they did, what would be the consequence? Common humani-

ty would oblige the Physician to prohibit a custom which would frequently destroy the unfortunate being who might be exposed to such disturbance. Some of the students too exhibit so much the appearance of rustic life, that every one must give their parents credit for the laudable ambition of making them gentlemen, however unfit they may be for such a station, either in education or intellect. The caution with which some of them go about to form a letter, seems to show that they had been but just emancipated from the rod of a country school-master.

The manner in which dissections are conducted in this hospital is no less objectionable, though the operation-room in which they are performed is very well adapted to the purpose. To get a faithful picture of one of these, we need only refer to the statement of a professional gentleman, whose representation, however, might be thought exaggerated, in consequence of the angry feelings with which he was actuated, but that it has been confirmed by that credit which every man will give to his own eyes. The following quotation will be found in the thirty-eighth page of the "Examination of the Objections made in Brittain against the doctrines of Gall and Spurzheim."

"Without informing the spectators what
 "was to be done, the dissectors set to work.
 "They employed more than sufficient time to
 "take off the scull-cap; but the spectators ex-

" cusing the anxiety of the operators, not to
 " spoil their important work, remained quiet.
 " The scull-cap, when taken off, was handed
 " round:—meanwhile the dura mater was re-
 " moved, and every spectator, I suppose, ex-
 " pected to see the appearances exhibited, or
 " at least to hear them mentioned; *but no*
 " *such thing*. The dissectors in the area sur-
 " rounded the body, *put their heads together*,
 " so that no one could see what was going on,
 " except themselves. The pupils expressed
 " their disapprobation by hisses. This induced
 " the great dissector to promise that the par-
 " ticulars should be made known. The water
 " was taken out of the ventricles, the cavities
 " were laid open, and the cerebral parts divid-
 " ed into pieces, which at least ought to have
 " been handed round. In vain the spectators
 " repeatedly hissed. The dissectors in the
 " area continued to keep close together round
 " the hydrocephalus, and proceeded silently
 " with the dissection."

And again, in the next page:—" I have wit-
 " nessed many morbid demonstrations in va-
 " rious countries, but in no university or col-
 " lege did I ever see a public dissection made
 " with less advantage and less instruction to
 " the pupils." This is too much the character
 of all the morbid dissections in the Infirmary;
 and the anger of the craniologist only had the
 effect of making him state publicly, what he
 would otherwise most probably have kept to

himself. Such then is the true character of the clinical department in Edinburgh; it is plainly and avowedly very defective, and requires not contrast to render its demerits fully conspicuous.

Besides the Infirmary there are only two Dispensaries in that city, and a kind of Lying-in-hospital. We may easily conceive what means of obtaining surgical knowledge are to be found there. In fact it is not a Surgical School; for though they have got a College of Surgeons, there is no School of Surgery attached to it, as in Dublin, neither is the deficiency supplied by private lectures, as in London. How different the scene is when we turn to Dublin! Here the hospitals, both Surgical and Medical, to which the student may resort for information, are numerous and highly deserving consideration, when we take a view of this city as a Medical School. To give a list of all of them is quite unnecessary where one or two would suffice; to show, however, that they are numerous, more of them shall be mentioned than the subject before us would otherwise seem to require. The excellence of the Anatomical department of our School is such as to need no aid from similar establishments in the city, but a single hospital of any kind can never supply that extent of disease in every shape, which was formerly so much neglected by Physicians, though absolutely requisite for them to know. It is therefore with true patriotic pride that we contemplate the

ample field for surgical knowledge in Dublin. Where, in the United Kingdom, is there an establishment of the kind to equal that of the House of Industry in Brunswick-street? To this there are attached four hospitals, the Richmond Hospital for surgical cases, the Hardwicke Fever-hospital, the Lunatic Asylum, and the Whitworth Hospital for patients affected with chronic diseases. The last, on account of the prevalence of fever at present, is set apart for patients labouring under it. To this extensive and well regulated establishment, students obtain admittance at a moderate expense, having it in their power to see the practice of some of the first Physicians and Surgeons in Dublin, either jointly or separately. Surgery however being our only object now, the Richmond Hospital alone becomes the object of consideration. This hospital contains about a hundred beds, but the number of external patients is under no limitation. Such of these as are able to go to the hospital for advice, are admitted into a room, two at a time, where they are examined, and any medicines which may be ordered for them, are registered in a book kept for that purpose.

The different Surgeons go their rounds at separate hours ; but there is one fixed hour in the morning, at which the pupils regularly attend. In so extensive an institution, the students have frequent opportunities of seeing

a variety of operations performed, and always have before them numerous surgical cases of every description. There is a dissecting room here also, which is always well supplied with subjects, and whenever morbid specimens occur, they are preserved. Anatomical lectures are annually delivered here at the lecture room. It appears that Messrs. Todd and Carmichael intend to commence a joint course of Surgery and Anatomy on the ensuing season.

Besides this there are many other Surgical hospitals, Stevens's, the Meath Hospital, the Charitable Infirmary in Jervis-street, &c. An excellent course of Surgical lectures is annually given at the last of these by Mr. Wilmot.

The total deficiency of Surgical hospitals in Edinburgh, has already been noticed. They have not even got a Lock-hospital in that city, whereas in Dublin there is a very extensive one, always presenting various forms of disease. Students of the Richmond Hospital, however, will not find it necessary to attend to it.

Another institution of no less importance to those who intend to make Midwifery a part of their profession, is the Lying-in-hospital; it is like some more of our establishments, the first of its kind in the United Kingdom, annually receiving from three thousand to four thousand patients. Lectures on midwifery are given here during the winter season. Only a certain number of internal pupils are admitted; but externals are under no limitation; and the

students belonging to it get a greater number of cases than they can any where else.

We find no institutions in Edinburgh which we can compare to these; their diminutive Lying-in-hospital having been before attended to.

LIBRARIES AND SOCIETIES.

Libraries, as necessary appendages to a Medical School, and Societies as useful to it in various ways, require a little more consideration than they may at first seem to call for. If there exist any where a School of Physic without a Library, or at which the students have not an easy access to books, it must necessarily be defective to a great degree. All knowledge is the fruit of experience, and the knowledge which any individual possesses, being made up of that which he has obtained through the experience of others who have gone before him, and of that which personal observation may have given him, thus reduced to knowledge mediately or immediately acquired, must evidently vary with the extent of those channels through which alone it can be procured. From the short period of human life, the latter must constitute but a small portion of that stock with which any man of information has stored

his mind. The great business of all instruction is to communicate the former; and the great object of the student is to acquire as much of it as possible; this he endeavours to do by consulting books which are the registers of knowledge, and by attending lectures which make known to him many things, the knowledge of which words alone cannot convey, and which guide him by a short cut to what he would not otherwise know any thing about. It is by no means meant to lay too great a stress on the use of books to the student, as if they were all in all; for there are many who read an immensity without being a whit the wiser for it; who can talk of disease with uncommon confidence without being able to treat it with common skill; nay it has come under the writer's observation in the neighbouring island, that there are some who can even write well on medical subjects, without any judgment in the application of remedies which they themselves have commented on. But circumstances of this kind must happen at all times, because all men cannot have sufficient education and natural understanding to teach them the right use of books, and because books to the Medical Student will be absolutely noxious if he have not first seen somewhat of that of which they treat, and if the experience and observations of others contained in them, with respect to the treatment of disease, be not verified or corrected before him in hospital practice. It is by com-

paring the history, the treatment, and the definitions of diseases as given in books, with those cases which are brought under his observation, that the student will profit most by such studies, just as it is necessary to examine the human body in order to know its structure, or to see the figure before you can comprehend a proposition in Euclid. There might be a contrast drawn between the students of Dublin and Edinburgh in reference to their mode of acquiring professional information, and the extent of it, both depending as well on the nature of the two schools as on the talents of the individuals. Of these, the latter cannot be made the subject of any discussion, and the former it is unnecessary to pursue, as we may easily gather from the brief view of the two schools, what influence the nature of each may have in directing the student in the pursuit of knowledge, or in furnishing him with it.

There are four principal libraries in Dublin to which the students have access. The first of these, the great Library of Trinity College, is only open to the University-students, the strict oath which is necessary to be taken previous to admittance, not being administered till after the degree of Bachelor in Arts has been granted. The Provost, however, has admitted such gentlemen as have taken what is termed, the Government testimonium or diploma, to the privilege of the library. This fine library, excelling any of those attached to the English

Universities, is open daily from eight o'clock in the morning till ten, and from eleven to two in the afternoon, an additional hour being obtained by a late regulation. The rules by which it is governed are still capable of improvement; but as they regard the University at large, more than the School of Physic, they do not require discussion here.

The library of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital is open to every student who attends that hospital. It contains all the old standard works, and some which are not to be got elsewhere. The books are given out by the librarian, twice in the week, the value or some sufficient part of it being deposited by the student, to remain in the hands of the librarian until the book be returned, a fortnight being fixed as the period for its return if demanded, if not, the student may keep it longer. This library is deficient in recent publications, but the deficiency is easily filled up by two others to which access is obtained on very moderate terms.

The library of the Medical Society contains those books in which the foregoing one is deficient, the members receiving them on similar terms.

The collection of books belonging to the Dublin Library Society, on professional subjects as well as on general literature, is such as to make it well worth the moderate terms of annual subscription paid by the members, two guineas the first year, and a guinea annually

for a certain period. There are also a few small libraries attached to some of the Surgical hospitals in the city.

The Medical Society of Dublin is only of a few years standing; but by its library, in conjunction with that of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, it effects one of the principal objects for which such societies are instituted. The students have in this Society the advantage of the honorary members joining in the debates, whereby they are more instructing and more interesting than those of the Medical Society in Edinburgh, which is in other respects much superior to it. It may however be doubted whether this advantage in the attendance of the honorary members, is not counterbalanced in other respects by their filling the principal offices in the Society. Certain it is that a greater spirit of ambition and of emulation would be excited amongst the ordinary members if they were admissible to the situation of President; and it should be remembered, that it is to the students this Society must look for support. The question indeed is, whether the plan on which the Society is at present constituted, or that of the Medical Society of Edinburgh, is better adapted for a Society in the School of Dublin? The success of the Society just now mentioned would naturally lead us to decide in favor of its constitution, while this decision would appear to be strengthened by the consideration that it need not deprive the

Society of the benefits arising from the debating of honorary members, though such members are not present at the meetings of the Medical Society of Edinburgh.

The libraries in Edinburgh which come under this head, are that of Edinburgh College, from which books are procured by deposit, and the library of the Medical Society. From the former it is often difficult to get books, but from the latter, which is an excellent library, the members provide themselves with great facility. Were the Edinburgh School as well supplied in every other source of knowledge, as it is in books, we should have no cause to expose its defects, many of which have been hitherto stated, more, of scarcely less magnitude, remaining yet to be pointed out. The Medical Society of Edinburgh is indeed the great prop of the School; by its books, and by bringing the students together, it supports a character for the place which it has in justice no claim to, and were this support withdrawn, it would soon fall to that level which alone it deserves to occupy. It is much to be wished by every man who desires the respectability of the Medical Profession to be preserved, that such defects of this School as admit of it, be speedily remedied; but it is much to be feared that they will not, for if we judge of the future by the present and the past, we can only augur *deterioration*.

It is proper to notice, in this place, the facility with which a knowledge of Mineralogy and Geology may be obtained in Dublin; a Professorship of Natural History (which was much wanted) having been lately created in the University. The liberality of the Board of Trinity College in giving the Professor an unlimited order for minerals, has enabled him to complete a Museum to which the students can have frequent access, the Museum of the College being at present open every day. Besides the lectures of the Professor of Natural History of Trinity College there are others given by the well known lecturer on Mineralogy to the Dublin Society, to which admittance is got free of expense. The fine Leskean cabinet of minerals, which is in the possession of the Society, and which has received considerable additions, is open two days in the week, for three hours each day, thus giving free access to those who wish to study them*. The country about Dublin too, is highly calculated for the furtherance of geological pursuits. We must not forget that Dublin was the city of the Father of British Mineralogy, the city of the great Kirwan. In him the Plutonists experienced their most powerful antagonist, and against him were directed the attacks of those fiery believers in central heat, some of them meanly

* Students in Mineralogy can obtain admittance to the Museum of the Society at all times by means of a Member.

endeavouring to depreciate the knowledge and abilities of a man whose objections they found it difficult to answer, and whose extensive fame they envied. But whatever be the correctness of the opinions of either party, the name of the Philosopher of Ireland (as some of them emphatically term him) will last as long as those sciences whose pages it adorns, in spite of their endeavours to cover it with literary obloquy, or consign it to oblivion.

There are no public lectures on Natural History in Edinburgh ; but the Professor gives two courses of private lectures in the year. He is justly celebrated as one of the first Mineralogists of the present day ; but the young mineralogist has not advantages in Edinburgh equal to those of Dublin ; for in the former city, the minerals are only progressively exhibited, being, from the size of the museum, unavoidably locked up in drawers, while in the latter they are always exposed to view, having also the advantage of a descriptive catalogue.

EXAMINATIONS.

There is a general impression amongst Medical Students in Dublin, that the examinations for medical degrees or diplomas are conducted in that city with a more rigorous regard to the object for which such examinations are insti-

tuted, than in Edinburgh; and without anticipating any thing, such an impression has, to the writer's own knowledge, caused some Irish students to take diplomas from the latter. We cannot lament that young men so devoid of all laudable ambition, should leave their own country to receive in another a licence to assume the name *Doctor*; such can neither be a loss to the one, nor a credit to the other; but we must deplore that want of independent spirit which could lead even a few to avoid what they can only think a fair trial of their qualifications.

It frequently happens in Edinburgh that young men pass examinations readily, who have been there only three years, two thirds of which time has been passed in idleness; now this is a thing impossible in Dublin, and which could only happen in any place from one or both of two causes, from laxity of examination, or from the practice of *grinding*, which is universal in the Scotch School. It may be necessary to give some explanation of this metaphorical but very appropriate term, to those who have not before met with it. There are men who make it a kind of profession to prepare young men for their examinations, and to supply by a regular routine of questions and answers, that power of answering which the student's own industry has not enabled him to obtain by the only useful way, knowing the principles whence those answers flow; or in

other words, the student is ignorant of his profession, and he wants to find out from those who have already passed, what questions he will most probably be asked at examination, and he pays for this a certain sum of money to his patient instructor. Now as this is generally a work of labor, requiring that certain associations of words constituting those answers, should be fixed in the student's memory by a frequent turning of them on every side, by friction as it were, the operation is expressively termed *grinding*, and the gentleman who teaches this parrot-like language is called, a *grinder*. These grinders are men very low in the profession, who endeavour to get emoluments by such a mode of proceeding, which their professional character is not sufficiently high to procure for them otherwise; and from the excess to which this practice is carried in Edinburgh, they thus manage to collect no inconsiderable sums in the year. It is very common to see hand-bills in the auction-rooms where they expect students to resort, or posted up on the walls of the college, setting forth, that such a person will assist gentlemen in preparing for their examinations, and in performing their exercises, i. e. will write or translate their *Theses*.* This practice

* The following passage met the author's eye in the Monthly Magazine for August 1818, p. 34.—Though it is little more than a repetition of what has been just now said, he begs leave to produce it as a corroboration of his testimony :—

is hardly known amongst the medical students of Dublin. The six Professors of the School of Physic in Dublin confine themselves each to his own department; which is a security that the examination shall be as general as possible. In Edinburgh this restriction is not observed, as each examiner will take up any subject, no matter whether it belong to his own department or not, so that it often happens that the candidate for a Diploma is only examined in two or three departments out of the six. That Edinburgh is by general character the first

“ Were the purposes of this course of study and examination answered by corresponding diligence and proficiency on the part of the student, then might the medical degree (!) equal in respectability any other, and the University (!) of Edinburgh deserve that high celebrity for medical science which it generally obtains. But it is a fact, and one most lamentable to be recorded, that the advantage and honor which might accrue from such preparation, is generally obviated either by the ignorance or indolence of the young men intended for that profession. Many of my readers may be inclined to doubt my veracity when I make the following assertion, that, out of the eighty who graduate at one period, there are not twenty who have converted their thesis into Latin, or sixty who have composed their thesis at all. The cause of this opprobrium is easily explained. At Edinburgh there is a body of men, generally sons of Esculapius, who neither have connexion nor capital to obtain medical practice, and who find that preparing young men for their examinations is the only way by which they can put their medical or classical knowledge to profit. To these *every* medical student applies, and for a certain sum obtains either a translation of his Thesis, or a Thesis *ex toto*; and is instructed previous to his examination nearly in the precise questions he will be asked.”

Medical School in the world, is quite plain in other countries, but from the facts which have been stated, it is equally plain and undeniable that it has a character which it does not merit. This very character indeed has been proved to be a source of injury in the Clinical department; and it is not there alone that it operates in this way. When a stranger goes first into the lecture-room of one of their best Professors, he is actually tempted to believe that it is the wish of the students to drown the voice of instruction, so continued is the noise kept up there. Another circumstance already noticed, is the system of dividing their course of lectures between two seasons, instead of completing them in one. Now by this plan (profitable to the Professor, but injurious to the pupil) the student is said to have attended two courses of lectures when he has actually attended but one, and he is thus deprived of the power of attending the second course, should he wish to do so, unless he remains four years instead of three, at his studies, a thing rarely done by Edinburgh students. There are three of their Professors who adopt this division, and the consequence is, that they are very prolix, that their lectures are spun out, and deformed by a heap of extraneous matter in order to fill up the time, so that any thing valuable is but half seen through the rubbish, and makes therefore but little impression; and it is no trifling objection to this plan, that the student is obliged to pay double for a full course of lec-

tures, for the usual price of a ticket will only give him admittance for one season, that is, to half a course. The disinterested conduct of the Professor of Materia Medica in Edinburgh obviates this last objection, as far as relates to his department; but as it reflects credit on himself, it also furnishes an additional argument (if such can be necessary) against this dividing system; for if it were not possible to deliver a proper course of lectures in six months, the Professor would be justly entitled to the price of a second ticket from each student; if again a course which may be completed in six months, is made to occupy twice that time, it then becomes the duty of a conscientious man to accept only the price of one ticket for both divisions of his course of lectures. It has been also stated that the Professors in Edinburgh have adopted no means to ascertain the degree of attention which any student pays to their lectures. On this depends the well known fact, that any person may receive his tickets and quit Edinburgh to get credit for having attended such lectures as he may have paid for, though he should not return till the commencement of the following season. The facility with which this may be done is quite sufficient to guarantee its frequent occurrence, and there are accordingly many instances of it every season, the nominal student either leaving Edinburgh, or remaining there in idleness, to which conduct the notion of making up for lost time by means of

a grinder, offers additional encouragement. Putting then all the defects of the School which have passed in review before us, out of the question for the present, we have here facts which (to use the mildest phrase) must throw the Medical Profession into discredit with the public. At the Bar, the abilities of the professional man are in general easily and fairly estimated by all men. Eloquence, sound reasoning and correctness of opinion, are sure tests of merit in the closet or at the forum, and of these any man of common understanding is qualified to be a judge. In the church, comparative talent is unhappily too little considered. It is there a point which the public have little to do with, as far as relates to the reward, which, be the merits of the teacher what they may, it does not lie with them to bestow, though sufficiently well qualified to judge of the spiritual teacher or the christian. How different are things when we turn to Medicine! Happily for some, but unhappily for the profession, there is no direct test by which mankind in general can try the merits of a medical practitioner; for to know whether his practice is right or wrong, is to know his profession. This is an extent of knowledge which can only be obtained by years of study, and with respect to which even the most enlightened men who are not of the profession, are in utter darkness. Yet notwithstanding this, we know, strange though it be, that almost every one imagines

himself somewhat acquainted with Medicine, because he may happen to know the effects of certain remedies, and thus being acquainted with the external consequences of a dose of Ipecacuanha or of Epsom salt, he will as readily decide on the merits of a Physician's practice, as a young female would on those of any new or fashionable piece of attire. Hence it frequently happens that the public, like the blind goddess, distributes favors to the undeserving, enriching those whose only merit may be successful imposition on the weakness of others. But though this be the case, though mankind in general are totally incapable of estimating a Physician's talents by his practice, there are fortunately other means whereby men of sense can be guided in their opinions of the practitioner with tolerable correctness. These are, *the known abilities of the man, the degree of industry with which he may apply them, and the advantages he has had, together with the nature of the test he has given of his fitness to practise Medicine.* It is evident that the last of these should be as satisfactory as possible, inasmuch as it is the only security, generally speaking, which the world can have of a medical man being fit to be entrusted with the lives of their friends and relations. The two first of these must depend entirely on the individual, the third on a variety of circumstances; but the great proof of qualification rests in the hands of the examiners in the School of Physic.

If then in any School this test is deficient, if candidates are allowed to pass examination and to receive diplomas though every way unworthy of it, there can be no reliance placed on that diploma, neither can any credit be given to such a school. This is not hypothesis, *it is fact*. There exists a celebrated School styling itself a University, giving annually diplomas, miscalled Doctor's degrees, to a great number of young men, to Army and Navy-surgeons, and to Apothecaries; amongst which crowd are to be found many who should be sent to learn the rudiments of a medical education, instead of being launched into the world as practitioners in a profession of which they are most profoundly ignorant. That this should be the case, may to some who never crossed the water, appear impossible; yet it is most true. Others may think the thing exaggerated, but it is most fairly stated. *Proofs, sufficient proofs are at hand, but they may not be touched on.* It is possible that these lines may be submitted to the perusal of some whose indignation will be renewed by the recital of facts which memory will not allow them to contradict, though candor may not be strong enough to excite acknowledgment. A man who is conscious that he knows his profession, must indeed feel indignant at seeing the idle and the ignorant receiving the same diploma with himself; but this participation he can easily avoid as far as he is himself concerned in the matter.

For the honor of the profession, those remarks shall now be concluded; but before quitting the subject let us recollect that the above disgraceful conduct has never been known in the School of Physic in Dublin, and let us hope that it never will; for contempt is its present reward, and destruction will be its future consequence, if persevered in.

Since the impression of the third sheet, the author has learned that a Lecturer on Midwifery has been added to the Dublin School, and that it is in contemplation to appoint another on Medical Jurisprudence.—He has to lament that his hurry in getting this pamphlet published has put it out of his power to give an account of the Museum of the Professor of Anatomy in Trinity College, and of the method adopted in its arrangement. It is probable, however, that a printed catalogue may yet make up to the public for this deficiency.

A PLAN OF THE ORDER OF MEDICAL STUDIES.

| | Winter. | Summer. |
|------------|---|--|
| First Year | { Lectures on Anatomy. Practical Anatomy. Chemistry. | { Continued attention to the foregoing subjects. |
| Second — | { Institutes of Medicine. Materia Medica. Practical Anatomy. | { Botany. Surgical Hospital |
| Third — | { Clinical Lectures. Practice of Physic. Operative Chemistry. | { Hospitals, Medical and Surgical. Practical Pharmacy. |
| Fourth — | { Clinical Lectures. General Hospitals. Anatomy. | |

This plan comprises a period of about four years study; and although according to the regulations which prevail in the Schools, any student may obtain a medical degree or a diploma after three years, he should not think of demanding an examination until the expiration of the fourth—The extent of matter which he should know, as well as the responsibility and dignity attached to the Medical Profession, make this absolutely necessary.

ACCOUNT
OF THE
COMPLETE SCHOOL OF PHYSIC
IN IRELAND,

*For the Instruction of Students in Medicine,
Surgery, and Pharmacy.*

FOUNDATION.

IN 1704, SIR PATRICK DUNN instituted, in his life-time, two Professorships in Dublin, viz. "one of *Osteology, Bandages, and Operations* " of *Surgery*, and one of *Ancient and Modern* " *Materia Medica, and Pharmacy.*" Sir P. Dunn further directed by his will in 1711, that, if his funds were sufficient, "there should be " lectures publicly read on the *Anatomy* of the " bodies of *Men* or the bodies of *Animals*—on " *Chirurgery* and *Midwifery*—on *Botany* and " the *Dissections of Plants.*" He also ordered, that the Professorships on these several subjects should be bestowed according to the merits of the candidates, to be ascertained by an

examination on three several days, two hours each day. A King's Professor of the *Theory* and *Practice* of *Physic*, with corporate powers of holding and letting lands, was instituted by George the First.

An act was passed in the 21st year of George II., by which the King's Professorship of Physic, and the Professorship of Surgery and Midwifery, and that of *Materia Medica* and Pharmacy, instituted by Sir Patrick Dunn, were incorporated and established by law. Before this period also, Lectureships existed in Trinity College on Anatomy and Surgery, Chemistry and Botany.

Throughout the 21st Geo. II. and the will of Sir Patrick Dunn, recited in it, the different lectures are always mentioned as being intended for the "*instruction of Students of Medicine, Surgery and Pharmacy*;" and from thence arose the title of the *Complete School of Physic*, adopted in the subsequent acts, viz. the 25th, 31st, and 40th of his present Majesty, in which the 21st Geo. II. is constantly recognised as the foundation of the School, and as being still in force, except "as relates to the number of Professors, the Electors, and the mode of election, the tenure and salaries of the said Professors, and the times and manner of lecturing."

STUDENTS.

The several Students in Physic are matriculated in the University, for which they pay five shillings; but such students, unless they shall think proper, are not obliged to attend to the Academical duties of the University. The several Lecturers, when they have delivered one half of their courses, return to the Senior Lecturer of Trinity College, a list of such pupils as shall have attended them during such part of their courses.

PROFESSORS.

There are six Professorships. Those of *Anatomy* and *Surgery*, of *Chemistry* and of *Botany*, are on the foundation of Trinity College, and are called the University Professorships; those of the *Institutes* of *Medicine*, of the *Practice* of *Medicine*, and of *Materia Medica* and *Pharmacy*, are on Sir Patrick Dunn's foundation, and are named King's Professorships. Provision is also made for the addition of a King's Professor of *Midwifery*, as soon as Sir Patrick Dunn's funds shall permit.

“ The King’s Professorships are open to
 “ persons of ALL NATIONS professing their Faith
 “ in Christ ; and the Professorships of the Uni-
 “ versity to Protestants of ALL NATIONS ;”
 and for both, it is required either to have taken
 Medical Degrees in some University, or to
 have obtained a Licence to practise from the
 College of Physicians, in consequence of a
Testimonium under the Seal of Trinity College.
 Immediately before the election of any Profes-
 sor, the electors are sworn to vote without
 “ favour, partiality, or prejudice ;” and imme-
 diately on being declared elected, the Profes-
 sor is sworn to perform “ his duties to the best
 of his skill and judgment.” The electors of
 the King’s Professors are the Provost and the
 Professor of Physic of the University, with
 three Physicians chosen by ballot from their
 own body by the College of Physicians. The
 University Professors are elected by the Pro-
 vost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College.
 Each Professor is chosen for seven years, but
 may be continued, or may be re-elected.

In addition to the fees derived from the Me-
 dical Students, the King’s Professors receive a
 salary from Sir Patrick Dunn’s estate ; and the
 University Professors are paid by the Students
 of Arts in Trinity College, for the public or
 collegiate course of lectures.

LECTURES AND OTHER MEANS OF INSTRUCTION.

The University Professors deliver annually a *public course of twelve lectures* on their respective subjects.

Lectures on the following subjects. are delivered from the 1st Monday in November until the end of the succeeding April, viz. on *Anatomy and Surgery*, and on *Chemistry*, in Trinity College. On the *Institutes of Medicine*, on the *Practice of Medicine*, and on *Materia Medica and Pharmacy*, in Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital. The lectures on *Botany* commence on the first Monday in May in Trinity College, and continue until the end of July. Terms for each of these courses of lectures, four guineas.

Clinical lectures are given on the cases of the patients in the Hospital, at least two days in each week of every Session. This duty is taken for three months by the Professors, alternately, or in such other order as shall be agreed upon amongst them. Terms of each course, three guineas.

Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology, are given by the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, twice a week during the Session, without additional expense to those who pay for the lectures on Anatomy

and Surgery. To other pupils, the terms for these lectures are two guineas.

Anatomical Demonstrations are given daily, from the beginning of the Session until April, by the Demonstrator of Anatomy in Trinity College. The students are superintended in their *Dissections*, and subjects are provided for the *Muscles, Blood Vessels, and Nerves*. A *Private-room* is allotted to the use of Practitioners who may wish to improve their knowledge of Anatomy. Terms for Dissections, Subjects and Demonstrations, six guineas; for Demonstrations alone, four guineas.

Students who wish to be instructed in the performance of *Surgical Operations on the dead body*, may be superintended, and have the necessary number of subjects provided them. Terms for which, five guineas.

Towards the end of the Session, a Course of Lectures is given on the *Diseases of the Skin*, by the Professor of Anatomy and Surgery; and one on the *Diseases of the Eye*, by the Demonstrator of Anatomy. Terms for each of these courses, one guinea.

At the *Chemical Laboratory*, operating pupils are received and instructed in the details of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Processes. Terms for such instruction are six guineas.

Students in Botany have access to the *Botanic Garden*, which is in the immediate vicinity of Dublin, and have the opportunity of taking frequent excursions with the Professor of Bota-

ny and his Assistant, to the mountains and sea coast adjacent to the city.

Botanical Demonstrations are daily given by the Professor's Assistant in the garden during the season. Terms of which one guinea.

A Course of Lectures on *Mineralogy* is delivered by the Professor of Natural History in Trinity College, to which those who have their names on the books of the University are admitted gratis.

The *Museum* of Trinity College, to which students have admission two days in the week, contains a *Collection of Minerals*, systematically arranged, with reference to a printed catalogue.

Pupils are taken by the Apothecary of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, and instructed in the *Practice of Pharmacy*. Terms for which, during three months, two guineas.

A *Medical Society* holds weekly meetings in Trinity College, for the purpose of discussing subjects connected with Medicine, Surgery, or Pharmacy. A *Medical Circulating Library* belongs to the Members. Terms of admission to the Society, with the use of the Library, one pound.

Medical Officers of the Army and Navy are permitted to attend the *Lectures on Anatomy and Surgery* in Trinity College without fee.

HOSPITAL.

This is chiefly supported by the rents of Sir Patrick Dunn's estates, and partly by private contribution. The Board of Governors consist of the Visitors of the College of Physicians, the President, the Vice President, and Censors of the same, the Provost of Trinity College, and twelve subscribers; but "no Physician or Surgeon" of the Hospital is eligible to be a Governor. The house is intended to hold one hundred and thirty patients, of whom thirty are selected for Instruction and Lectures by the Clinical Professor for the time: the rest are placed under the care of a Physician appointed by the Governors.

The cases of the Clinical Patients in the hospital are recorded. Every opportunity is also taken to examine the bodies of patients that die; the morbid appearances are explained to the students, and preserved in the Pathological collection of the School.

At present all pupils are permitted to attend the entire practice of the hospital during a year for three guineas. Formerly this privilege was extended to those only who had studied at least two year in Arts in the Universities of Dublin, Oxford or Cambridge. All other pupils paid twenty guineas.

LIBRARY.

A large collection of Medical Books, bequeathed by Sir Patrick Dunn, is appropriated to the use of the students, and provision is made for purchasing books in proportion as the funds encrease. A Librarian is appointed annually by the College of Physicians, with a salary of seventy pounds per annum. He furnishes the necessary fuel for the Library and Medical Lecture-room, and discharges such duties as shall be prescribed to him by the College of Physicians.

DEGREES.

The Students who do not graduate in Arts are permitted, at the end of three years from the date of their Matriculation, to undergo an examination before the six Professors of the School, in their respective departments, on producing to the Board of Trinity College certificates of diligent and regular attendance on Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry, Botany, Institutes of Medicine, Practice of Medicine, Materia Medica and Pharmacy, the Clinical Lectures, and practice of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital. They

likewise write a Thesis in Latin. If found qualified by the examination, they publish the Thesis, perform the Academical Exercises for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and receive the following *Testimonium* from the Board of Trinity College :

“Omnibus ad quos præsentes literæ pervenerint, salutem.” Nos Præpositus et Socii Seniores Collegii Sacro Sanctæ et individue Trinitatis, juxta Dublin, testamur A. B. quamdiu apud nos commoratus est, sedulam operam Medicinæ navasse, Examinationes solitas coram Sex Medicinæ Professoribus feliciter sustinuisse, cæteraque exercitia necessaria præstitisse, his adducti judicamus eum habilem ac idoneum esse, qui exerceat artem Medicinæ quatenus leges statutaque regni permittunt; in cujus rei Testimonium, manus et Sigillum quo in his utimur, apposuimus.—Anno Domini, “&c. &c.”

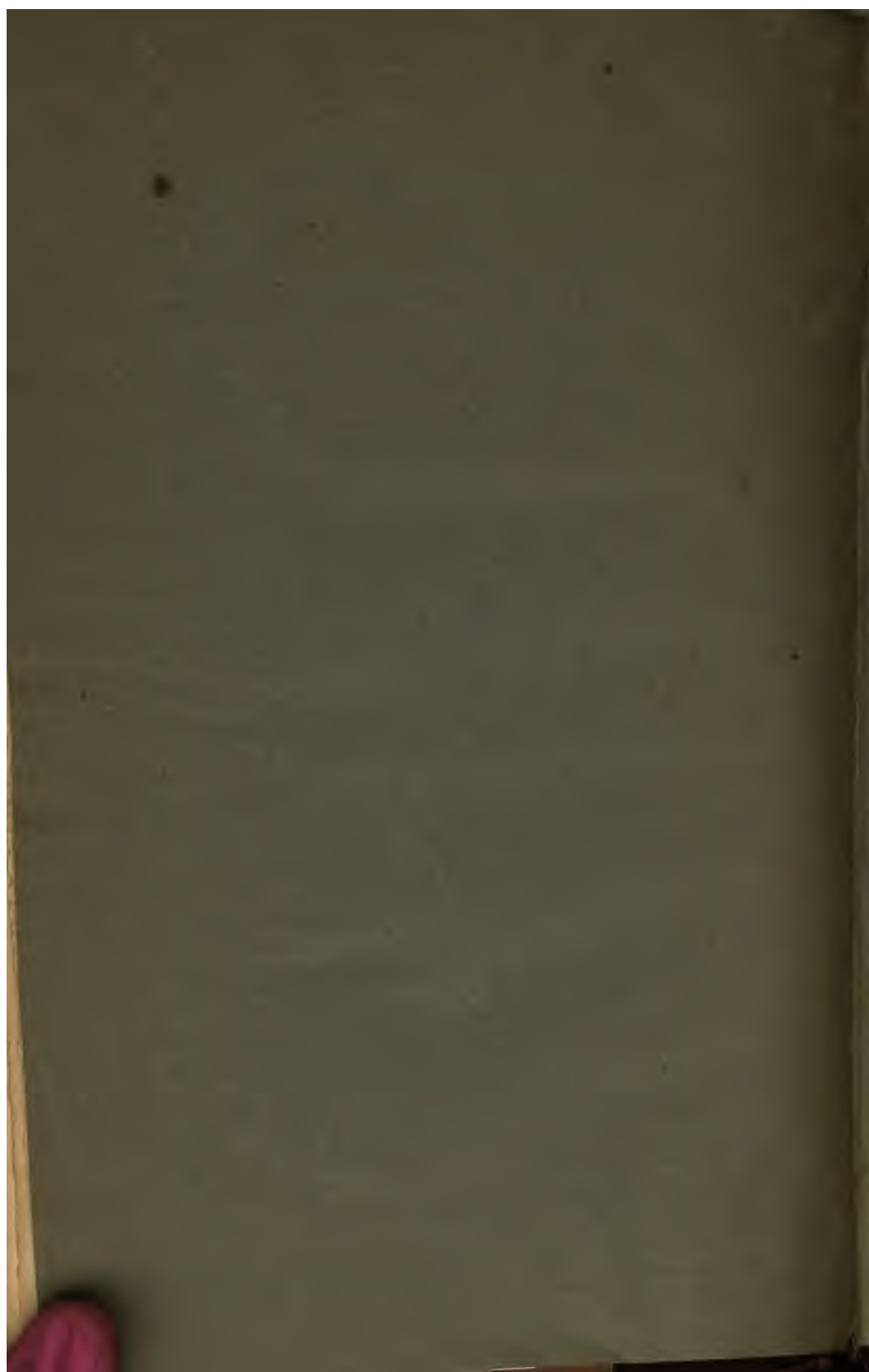
The Students who go through a Collegiate Course, on producing Certificates of their strict attendance on the lectures of the Professors in the School of Physic, on the Clinical Lectures and the Hospital, are, three years after having graduated as Bachelors of Arts, admitted to an examination before the Regius Professor of Physic and the Professors of Anatomy and Surgery, Chemistry and Botany in Trinity College. On being approved, and performing the usual academical exercises, they take the degree of *Bachelor of Medicine*. Upon suffi-

erent standing, publishing a Thesis; passing a second examination before the University Professors, and performing the necessary acts, the full degree of *Doctor in Medicine* is conferred. These rank with the Degrees of Bachelor and Doctor of Medicine obtained in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

As qualifications previous to examination for the Testimonium, the Certificates of the Professors in Edinburgh are admitted for any three of the courses required, with the exception of the Clinical Lectures, which must have been attended in the School of Physic in Ireland.

Certificates of attendance on the Professors in the School of Physic in Ireland, are received, as giving standing in other Universities, and as qualifications for Medical Officers in the Army, Navy, and East India Service. And Certificates of attendance on the Anatomical and Surgical Lectures in Trinity College, are also admitted in the different Colleges of Surgeons.

END.



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